/SA

Islamic Council of Europe المجلس الإسلامي الأوروبي

16 Grosvenor Crescent London SW1 Phone: 235 9832

Press Release

20 May 1982

The Islamic Council of Europe has taken note of the Saudi Arabian Government's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Zaire because of the latter's plans to establish diplomatic ties with Israel. The Secretary General, Mr Salem Azzam, said that the Saudi action was in keeping with the policy and stand of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the Organisation of African Unity.

The Secretary General requested that the Saudi Government apply the same principles in the case of the Egyptian regime, which has, in total disregard of Arab Summit and OIC resolutions, established diplomatic ties with Israel and normalised her relations with that country. In the light of this, the talk in some Arab states of resuming relations with the Egyptian regime makes a mockery and a violation of the stand taken by Arab, African and Islamic states. Mr Azzam added that once the Arab states accept the Egyptian regime back into their fold, they will have no moral basis on which to prevent African states from establishing relations with Israel.